

ABSTRACT

The present invention relates generally to a method of immunomodulating therapy and pharmaceutical compositions useful for same. More particularly, the present invention provides a method of ameliorating the effects of autoimmune conditions. Even more particularly, the present invention contemplates a method for preventing, delaying onset of or otherwise ameliorating the effects of insulin-dependant diabetes mellitus (IDDM) by administering a cell wall subunit or a chemical or functional equivalent thereof from *Mycobacterium* or a related organism or other suitable biological source. The present invention is further directed to a pharmaceutical composition useful in preventing, delaying onset of, curing, curing in association with islet replacement or otherwise ameliorating the effects of autoimmune conditions such as IDDM or for enhancing an immune response against melanoma or other cancer comprising a cell wall subunit or a chemical or functional equivalent thereof from *Mycobacterium* or a related organism or other suitable biological source. The cell wall subunit is preferably mycolyl-arabinogalactan-peptidoglycan (MAPG) or a component thereof.